

impatient, some too indifferent; while others are incapable of pursuing continued trains of reflection. I am led, then, by my long and unwearied labours on this subject, to the following results:—

"1. Individuality is an invariable element in pathology. A disease is not a simple, fixed, and uniform entity; it is a series of varied and changing actions; therefore every exclusive theory is absurd in pathology, and every absolute method repugnant to therapeutics.

"2. Numerical and statistical calculations, open to many sources of fallacy, are in no degree applicable to therapeutics.

"3. The only methods admissible in practical medicine are those of analysis, logic, and induction."—*Gaz. Médicale*, and *Lond. Med. Gaz.* for May 13, 1837.

47. *Bastardy in England and Wales.*—It appears from the population returns (1831), that 20039 bastards (10147 males, 9892 females) were born in England and Wales in the year 1830. In the same year 382060 baptisms were registered; illegitimate children therefore formed 1 in 19 of the children baptised; and if the number of *unmarried* women at a child-bearing age be compared with the number *married*, it will be immediately perceived that for their numbers they contribute a considerable share to the population of the country. The actual population of the country (14270000) contains—if their lives are as long as other people's, and the proportions have continued the same—751000 persons illegitimately born.—*British Annals of Medicine*, Sept. 1, 1837.

48. *Bastardy in Prussia.*—We have just seen an elaborate statistical return of bastardy in Prussia for the 15 years, 1820 to 1834. The greatest number of illegitimate children are born in Berlin; they amount to 1435 annually, the population having been 250000. For 1000 inhabitants 5.74 bastards were annually born. In the same period there were to 100000 inhabitants, on an average, 20354 females aged 14 and upwards; 1 in 35 had a natural child; in the regency of Munster, in Westphalia, there were, in the same number of inhabitants, 17720 females above 14, and 1 bastard to 278 of their number. In Berlin, 1831, there were only 13.31 married females in 1000 inhabitants. Of 1000 inhabitants in the mountains of Silesia (1834) there were 196.37 married females in 1000 inhabitants, and 3.82 bastards were born annually (1820–34).

MORTALITY OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN IN PRUSSIA.

In Prussia, 1820–34.	Total Born.	Still-born.	Still-born per 100.	Died in the year of 100 born alive.
Legitimate children,	7066525	230546	3.27	17.12
Illegitimate children,	526492	26522	5.01	25.28

This shows that bastards born alive are exposed to greater dangers than legitimate children; 25 per cent. of the former class die in the first year, while but 17 out of 100 children born in wedlock die in the same time. The illegitimate *fœtus* incurs still greater dangers in utero; 51 per cent. more perish before birth than among the class of legitimate children.

Of the children born alive in Prussia 7.3 per cent. are bastards; of the children born alive in England only 5.3 per cent. are illegitimate. In Wales the proportion is higher than in Prussia.—*Ibid.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

49. *Account of a man who submitted to be buried alive for a month, at Jaisulmer, and was dug out alive at the expiration of that period.*—The following extraordinary narrative by H. M. Twedell, Esq., published in a recent No. of the *India Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, we consider worthy a place in our pages, though we are not aware of what degree of credit is to be attached to it.

"I have just witnessed a singular circumstance, of which I had heard during our stay at this place, but said nothing about it before, the time for its accomplishment not being completed: this morning, however, the full month was over, and a man who had been buried all that time, on the bank of a tank near our camp, was dug

out alive, in the presence of *Esur Lal*, one of the Ministers of the Maharajwul, of Jaisalmer, on whose account this singular individual was voluntarily entered a month ago. He is a youngish man, about 30 years of age, and his native village is within five kos of Kurnaul; but he generally travels about the country to Ajmeer, Kotah, Endor, &c. and allows himself to be buried for weeks or months, by any person who will pay him handsomely for the same. In the present instance the Rajwul put this singular body in requisition, under the hope of obtaining an heir to his throne, and whether the remedy is efficacious or not, it certainly deserves to be known.

The man is said, by long practice, to have acquired the art of holding his breath by shutting the mouth, and stopping the interior opening of the nostrils with the tongue; he also abstains from solid food for some days previous to his interment, so that he may not be inconvenienced by the contents of his stomach, while put up in his narrow grave; and moreover, he is sewn up in a bag of cloth, and the cell is lined with masoary, and floored with cloth, that the white ants and other insects may not easily be able to molest him. The place in which he was buried, at Jaisalmer, is a small building, about 12 feet by 8 feet, built of stone; and in the floor was a hole about three feet long, two and a half feet wide, and the same depth, or perhaps a yard deep, in which he was placed in a sitting posture, sewed up in his shroud, with his feet* turned inwards towards the stomach, and his hands also pointed inwards towards the chest. Two heavy slabs of stone, five or six feet long, several inches thick, and broad enough to cover the mouth of the grave, so that he could not escape, were then placed over him, and I believe a little earth was plastered over the whole, so as to make the surface of the grave smooth and compact. The door of the house was also built up, and people placed outside, that no tricks might be played, nor deception practised. At the expiration of a full month, that is to say, this morning, the walling up of the door was broken, and the buried man dug out of the grave; Trevelyan's moonshee only running there in time to see the ripping open of the bag in which the man had been inclosed. He was taken out in a perfectly senseless state, his eyes closed, his hands cramped and powerless; his stomach shrank very much; and his teeth jammed so fast together, that they were forced to open his mouth with an iron instrument to pour a little water down his throat. He gradually recovered his senses, and the use of his limbs, and when he went to see him, was sitting up, supported by two men, and conversed with us in a low, gentle tone of voice, saying, "that we might bury him again for a twelvemonth if we pleased." He told Major Spiers, at Ajmeer, of his powers, and was laughed at as an impostor; but Cornet Macnaghten put his abstinence to the test at Pokhur, by suspending him for thirteen days, shut up in a wooden chest, which, he says, is better than being buried under ground, because the box, when hung from the ceiling, is open to inspection, on all sides, and the white ants, &c. can be easier prevented from getting at his body, while he thus remains in a state of insensibility. His powers of abstinence must be wonderful to enable him to do without food for so long a time, nor does his hair grow during the time he remains buried.

I really believe that there is no imposture in the case, and that the whole proceeding is actually conducted in the way mentioned above.

This letter was written by Lieut. A. H. Boileau, of the Engineers, first assistant Great Trigonometrical survey, who at that time was employed in the survey of that part of the country. The gentlemen, whose names are mentioned in the letter, are Capt. Trevelyan, of the Bombay Artillery, and Cornet, now Lieut. Macnaghten, of the 5th regiment light cavalry, assistant to the agent to the Governor-General in Rajpootana.

Some other information I obtained in the course of conversation with Lieut. Boileau, and which I noted down. Lieut. Boileau was unacquainted with the man's name or cast; he believed that he had taken up the life of a Fakcer; he understood that the man had been buried six or seven times, but whether for any period longer than a month he knew not; he did not hear how the man discovered his powers, or when he commenced to practise them. Lieutenant Boileau arrived at Jaisalmer, after the interment, and saw the place, described in his letter, in which the man was buried. There was a guard of four or five Chuprasces, in

* Query feet, the word as used in that part of India, is *gor*, and means foot or leg.

the employ of the maharâwul, as he understood, who were on the watch, to prevent any interference or imposition. The process of burying, and of disinterring was conducted in the presence of Esur Loll, one of the ministers of maharâwul. The day fixed for the interment was known to Lieut. Boileau, but not the exact hour. Captain Trevelyan's moonshee, who had set forth to give intelligence when operations were to be commenced, arrived only in time to see the people ripping open the cloth, or shroud, in which he had been inclosed. The moonshee immediately started off to a man to inform his master, and Lieut. Boileau, who were in their tents, at a distance of about three furlongs.

They waited a few seconds to apprise Lieut. Mackeson, of the 14th regiment, N. I. British Agent for the navigation of the Indus (who had declined to accompany them,) and repaired to the spot as quickly as possible. Perhaps a quarter of an hour had elapsed, since the opening of the grave, before they arrived. The people had thrown a clean cloth over the man; two of them supported him; he presented an appearance of extreme emaciation and debility; but weak as he was his spirit was good, and his confidence in his powers unabated, as in answer to Lieut. Boileau's and Captain Trevelyan's inquiries, he said "*that we might bury him again for a twelvemonth if we pleased.*" Lieut. Boileau examined, and measured with his walking stick, the grave in the floor of the chamber in which the man had been buried, and also the two slabs of stone which had been used to cover the mouth of the grave. For seven or eight days preceding the burial, the man lived entirely upon milk, regulating the quantity so as to sustain life, whilst nothing remained to give employment to the excretory organs. In that state he was buried. He confesses to have great dread of the white ants. Several folds of cloth were spread on the bottom of the grave, to protect him from their attacks. On taking nourishment after his release, he is said to be in a state of anxiety, until he has ascertained that the powers of his stomach and intestines are not impaired. Lieut. Boileau saw nothing more of the man; he understood that he regained his strength, and was for some time in attendance at the durbar of the Maharâwul, in the hope of receiving his promised reward, and that tired of waiting until the purse strings of the patron were loosened, he had stolen a camel and decamped.

50. *Lithotripsy in Russia.*—M. HEURTELoup, by invitation of the Emperor of Russia, visited St. Petersburg in May last, and gave public demonstrations of the operation of lithotripsy on cases of stone, which had been collected in the hospital for the purpose of illustration, and the Russian surgeons were thus instructed in the several stages of the process. In the middle of June, Dr. H. proceeded by request of the Emperor, to Moscow, where 34 cases of stone were collected by the authorities, and where the provincial surgeons were marshalled to receive the expected tuition.—*Lancet*, August 5, 1837.

51. *Animal Flower.*—The inhabitants of St. Lucia have discovered a most singular plant. In a cavern of that isle, near the sea, is a large basin of water, which is brackish, and its bottom composed of rocks; from these proceed beautiful flowers of a bright shining colour, and nearly resembling our marigolds. These seeming flowers, on the approach of a hand, retire, like the sulid, out of sight. On examining their substance closely, there appears in the middle of the disk four brown filaments resembling spiders' legs. These legs have pincers to seize their prey, and upon seizing it, the yellow petals immediately close. The body of the animal is about the size of a raven's bill.—*Lit. Chron.*